

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION

TIAWAN BRITTON,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	CIVIL ACTION
vs.)	
)	FILE No. _____
DIPDC&SAM LLC,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, TIAWAN BRITTON, by and through the undersigned counsel, and files this, his Complaint against Defendant DIPDC&SAM LLC pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.* (“ADA”) and the ADA’s Accessibility Guidelines, 28 C.F.R. Part 36 (“ADAAG”). In support thereof, Plaintiff respectfully shows this Court as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has original jurisdiction over the action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343 for Plaintiff’s claims pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.*, based upon Defendant’s failure to remove physical barriers to access and violations of Title III of the ADA.

2. Venue is proper in the federal District Court for the Northern District

of Georgia, Atlanta Division.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff TIAWAN BRITTON (hereinafter “Plaintiff”) is, and has been at all times relevant to the instant matter, a natural person residing in Atlanta, Georgia (Fulton County).

4. Plaintiff suffers from Spinal Muscular Atrophy (“SMA”) and is disabled as defined by the ADA.

5. Plaintiff is required to traverse in a wheelchair and is substantially limited in performing one or more major life activities, including but not limited to: walking, standing, grabbing, grasping and pinching.

6. Plaintiff cannot walk and uses a wheelchair for mobility purposes.

7. Defendant DIPDC&SAM LLC (hereinafter “Defendant”) is a Georgia limited liability company that transacts business in the state of Georgia and within this judicial district.

8. Defendant may be properly served with process via its registered agent for service, to wit: Dipakkumar Madhavlal Brahmbhatt, 1890 Durwood Lane, Duluth, Georgia 30096.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

9. On multiple occasions, including, but not limited to July 31, 2019,

December 16, 2019 and February 4, 2021, Plaintiff was a customer at “Chevron Food Mart,” a business located at 4340 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30336.

10. Defendant is the owner or co-owner of the real property and improvements that are the subject of this action. (The structures and improvements situated upon said real property shall be referenced herein as the “Facility,” and said real property shall be referenced herein as the “Property”).

11. Plaintiff lives approximately ten (10) miles from the Facility and Property.

12. Plaintiff’s access to the business located at 4340 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30336 (Fulton County Property Appraiser’s parcel number 14F0052 LL0862) and/or full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, foods, drinks, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations offered therein were denied and/or limited because of his disabilities, and he will be denied and/or limited in the future unless and until Defendant is compelled to remove the physical barriers to access and correct the ADA violations that exist at the Facility and Property, including those set forth in this Complaint.

13. Plaintiff has visited the Facility and Property multiple times and intends on revisiting the Facility and Property once the Facility and Property are

made accessible.

14. Plaintiff intends to revisit the Facility and Property to purchase goods and/or services.

15. Plaintiff travelled to the Facility and Property as a customer and as an advocate for the disabled, encountered the barriers to his access of the Facility and Property that are detailed in this Complaint, engaged those barriers, suffered legal harm and legal injury, and will continue to suffer such harm and injury as a result of the illegal barriers to access present at the Facility and Property.

COUNT I
VIOLATIONS OF THE ADA AND ADAAG

16. On July 26, 1990, Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (the “ADA”).

17. The ADA provided places of public accommodation one and a half years from its enactment to implement its requirements.

18. The effective date of Title III of the ADA was January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993 (if a defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). 42 U.S.C. § 12181; 28 C.F.R. § 36.508(a).

19. The Facility is a public accommodation and service establishment.

20. The Property is a public accommodation and service establishment.

21. Pursuant to the mandates of 42 U.S.C. § 12134(a), on July 26, 1991,

the Department of Justice and Office of Attorney General promulgated federal regulations to implement the requirements of the ADA. 28 C.F.R. Part 36.

22. Public accommodations were required to conform to these regulations by January 26, 1992 (or by January 26, 1993 if a defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.*; 28 C.F.R. § 36.508(a).

23. Liability for violations under Title III or the ADA falls on “any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation.” 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a).

24. The Facility must be, but is not, in compliance with the ADA and ADAAG.

25. The Property must be, but is not, in compliance with the ADA and ADAAG.

26. Plaintiff has attempted to, and has to the extent possible, accessed the Facility and the Property in his capacity as a customer of the Facility and Property, and as an advocate for the disabled, but could not fully do so because of his disabilities resulting from the physical barriers to access, dangerous conditions and ADA violations that exist at the Facility and Property that preclude and/or limit his access to the Facility and Property and/or the goods, services, facilities, privileges,

advantages and/or accommodations offered therein, including those barriers, conditions and ADA violations more specifically set forth in this Complaint.

27. Plaintiff intends to visit the Facility and Property again in the future as a customer and as an advocate for the disabled in order to utilize all of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations commonly offered at the Facility and Property, but will be unable to fully do so because of his disability and the physical barriers to access, dangerous conditions and ADA violations that exist at the Facility and Property that preclude and/or limit his access to the Facility and Property and/or the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations offered therein, including those barriers, conditions and ADA violations more specifically set forth in this Complaint.

28. Defendant has discriminated against Plaintiff (and others with disabilities) by denying his access to, and full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of the Facility and Property, as prohibited by, and by failing to remove architectural barriers as required by, 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv).

29. Defendant will continue to discriminate against Plaintiff and others with disabilities unless and until Defendant is compelled to remove all physical barriers that exist at the Facility and Property, including those specifically

set forth herein, and make the Facility and Property accessible to and usable by Plaintiff and other persons with disabilities.

30. A specific list of unlawful physical barriers, dangerous conditions and ADA violations which Plaintiff experienced and/or observed that precluded and/or limited Plaintiff's access to the Facility and Property and the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and accommodations of the Facility and Property include, but are not limited to:

(a) EXTERIOR ELEMENTS:

- (i) The accessible parking space on the Property most proximate to the front entrance of the Facility is missing a proper identification sign, in violation of section 502.6 of the 2010 ADAAG standards.
- (ii) The access aisle adjacent to the above-described accessible parking space on the Property most proximate to the front entrance of the Facility has inadequate dimensions and is not adequately marked, in violation of section 502.3 of the 2010 ADAAG standards.
- (iii) The above-described access aisle is not level due to the presence of a ramp within the boundaries of said access aisle, in

violation of section 502.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards.

- (iv) The side flares of the above-described ramp have slopes in excess of 1:10 (one to ten), in violation of section 406.3 of the 2010 ADAAG standards.
- (v) Due to an apparent policing of placing an unaffixed rubber mat on the running surfaces of the accessible ramp on the Property, said surfaces have vertical rises in excess of ¼” (one quarter inch) in height and are not stable, in violation 405.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards.
- (vi) The accessible parking space on the northern side of the Facility does not have an access aisle adjacent to it, in violation of section 502.3 of the 2010 ADAAG standards.
- (vii) The above-described accessible parking space has signage that states that the space is van accessible, but it is not a van accessible space. Thus, the Property lacks a van accessible disabled parking space, in violation of section 208.2.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards.
- (viii) The Property lacks an accessible route from the above-described accessible parking space to the accessible entrances

of the Facility, requiring travel within the vehicular way, in violation of section 206.2.1 of the 2010 ADAAG standards.

- (ix) The ground surfaces within the required maneuvering clearances at the door to the entrance of the Facility are not level, in violation of section 404.2.4.4.

(b) INTERIOR ELEMENTS:

- (i) The interior of the Facility has a food service counter lacking any portion of which that has a maximum height of 36" (thirty-six inches) from the finished floor, in violation of section 904.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards.
- (ii) The Facility lacks restroom signage that complies with sections 216.8 and 703 of the 2010 ADAAG standards.
- (iii) The accessible route to the restroom in the Facility has walking surfaces lacking a 36 (thirty-six) inch clear width, in violation of section 403.5.1 of the 2010 ADAAG standards.
- (iv) The restroom door in the Facility does not provide for permissible minimum maneuvering clearance, in violation of section 404.2.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards.
- (v) The grab bars/handrails adjacent to the commodes in the

restrooms in the Facility are not positioned in accordance with sections 604.5 and 609.4 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. Specifically, the rear grab bar is too short.

- (vi) The restrooms in the Facility have pedestal sinks that provide for inadequate knee and toe clearance thereunder, in violation of sections 306 and 606 of the 2010 ADAAG standards. Further, the clear floor space before the sink is obstructed by an apparent policy of placing inventory underneath and in front of the sink, further reducing knee and toe clearance.
- (vii) The soap dispensers in the restrooms in the Facility are located outside the prescribed vertical reach ranges set forth in section 308.2.1 of the 2010 ADAAG standards.
- (viii) Due to an apparent policy of storing ladders, inventory and miscellaneous equipment inside the restroom, there is inadequate clear turning space in the restroom in the Facility, in violation of section 603.2.1 of the 2010 ADAAG standards.

31. The violations enumerated above may not be a complete list of the barriers, conditions or violations encountered by Plaintiff and/or which exist at the Facility and Property.

32. Plaintiff requires an inspection of Facility and Property in order to determine all of the discriminatory conditions present at the Facility and Property in violation of the ADA.

33. Without limitation, the above-described violations of the ADA and 2010 ADAAG standards made it more difficult for Plaintiff to traverse the accessible routes on the Property, more difficult and dangerous for Plaintiff to traverse the accessible ramp on the Property, and rendered the restroom completely inaccessible to Plaintiff.

34. The removal of the physical barriers, dangerous conditions and ADA violations alleged herein is readily achievable and can be accomplished and carried out without significant difficulty or expense. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv); 42 U.S.C. § 12181(9); 28 C.F.R. § 36.304.

35. All of the violations alleged herein are readily achievable to modify to bring the Facility and Property into compliance with the ADA.

36. Upon information and good faith belief, the removal of the physical barriers and dangerous conditions present at the Facility and Property is readily achievable because the nature and cost of the modifications are relatively low.

37. Upon information and good faith belief, the removal of the physical barriers and dangerous conditions present at the Facility and Property is readily

achievable because Defendant has the financial resources to make the necessary modifications.

38. Upon information and good faith belief, the Facility and Property have been altered since 2010.

39. In instances where the 2010 ADAAG standards do not apply, the 1991 ADAAG standards apply, and all of the alleged violations set forth herein can be modified to comply with the 1991 ADAAG standards.

40. Plaintiff is without adequate remedy at law, is suffering irreparable harm, and reasonably anticipates that he will continue to suffer irreparable harm unless and until Defendant is required to remove the physical barriers, dangerous conditions and ADA violations that exist at the Facility and Property, including those alleged herein.

41. Plaintiff's requested relief serves the public interest.

42. The benefit to Plaintiff and the public of the relief outweighs any resulting detriment to Defendant.

43. Plaintiff's counsel is entitled to recover its reasonable attorney's fees and costs of litigation from Defendant pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 12188 and 12205.

44. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a), this Court is provided authority to grant injunctive relief to Plaintiff, including the issuance of an Order directing

Defendant to modify the Facility and Property to the extent required by the ADA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays as follows:

- (a) That the Court find Defendant in violation of the ADA and ADAAG;
- (b) That the Court issue a permanent injunction enjoining Defendant from continuing its discriminatory practices;
- (c) That the Court issue an Order requiring Defendant to (i) remove the physical barriers to access and (ii) alter the subject Facility and Property to make them readily accessible to, and useable by, individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA;
- (d) That the Court award Plaintiff's counsel reasonable attorneys' fees, litigation expenses and costs; and
- (e) That the Court grant such further relief as deemed just and equitable in light of the circumstances.

Dated: March 3, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Craig J. Ehrlich

Craig J. Ehrlich

Georgia Bar No. 242240

The Law Office of Craig J. Ehrlich, LLC

1123 Zonolite Road, N.E., Suite 7-B

Atlanta, Georgia 30306

Tel: (800) 238-3857

Fax: (855) 415-2480

craig@ehrllichlawoffice.com

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL RULE 5.1

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing document has been prepared in accordance with the font type and margin requirements of Local Rule 5.1 of the Northern District of Georgia, using a font type of Times New Roman and a point size of 14.

/s/Craig J. Ehrlich
Craig J. Ehrlich